

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:746

ANSWERED ON:05.03.2007

RISE IN PRICES OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is an alarming rise in the prices of fruits and vegetables in the country recently;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken to control the prices?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a): The movement of Weekly Index for Wholesale Prices for fruits and vegetables from 23rd December, 2006 to 10th February, 2007 (latest available date) which is given below shows that the prices increased slightly for fruits from last week of January, 2007. The prices of vegetables got reduced upto middle of January, 2007 and thereafter increased during the period for which data are available.

Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for fruits and vegetables from week ending 23-12-2006 to 10-2-2007

(1993-94=100)

Commodities 23/12/ 30/12/ 6/1/ 13/1/ 20/1/ 27/1/ 3/2/ 10/2/
2006 2006 2007 2007 2007 2007 2007 2007

All 208.0 208.1 208.2 208.3 208.5 208.8 209.2 209.2
Vegetables 188.1 185.7 185.2 177.9 184.4 185.2 188.2 185.3
Fruits 268.5 271.1 277.8 276.3 274.8 276.6 276.5 277.6

Source: Office of the Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

(b)&(c): The reasons for recent rise in prices of fruits and vegetables is the low market arrivals as compared to demand. Some of the measures taken to contain the price rise are regular monitoring of prices and market arrivals. Prime Minister also wrote to State Governments to take measures to contain the price rise.